

# **George Knight Hester collection**

## **S2185**

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July 01, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
317-232-3671

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator</b>	Hester, Francis A.
<b>Creator</b>	Hester, George Knight
<b>Title</b>	George Knight Hester collection
<b>Date</b>	1851, 1926
<b>Extent</b>	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Text [Folder]</b>	S2185

### Preferred Citation

S2185, George Knight Hester, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## Biographical Note

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Rev. George Knight Hester was born in Kentucky on September 26, 1794 to John Matthias Hester, who emigrated from Germany to America about 1770 at age four. The family relocated to the Northwest Territory in what became Charlestown, Clarke County. Hester was first licensed as a Methodist preacher in 1819. He married Bence Briggs in 1820 and they had five children. He died September 2, 1874, and is buried in Charlestown, Clark County, Indiana.

Sources:

Items in the collection.

Ancestry.com. *1860 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT: 2009. Accessed July 1, 2015.

Findagrave.com. "Rev George Knight Hester." Find a Grave database, May 14, 2011. Accessed July 1, 2015. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSIln=HES&GSpartial=1&GSbyrel=all&GSst=17&GSctry=4&GSsr=2801&GRid=69837278&>.

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## Scope and Contents

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There are four items in this collection: (1) Rev. George Knight Hester's 1851 Diary, which is really a memoir, consisting of 18 typed pages; (2-3) a partial letter from Saguaches, Colorado, written on November 14, no year, to "Sister dear" on brown paper with no signature, accompanied by a transcription of the letter; and (4) "Papers Relating To The Hester Family" compiled by the Indiana State Library, 1926.

The 1851 document gives the family history from Germany to America, settlement in the Northwest Territory (now Clark County, Indiana), conflict with Native American groups, including the infamous Pigeon Roost Massacre (1812), and life as a Methodist circuit-riding preacher. The 41-page typed booklet of Hester family letters begins with an 1858 letter and ends with an 1890 letter. From pages 35 to 41, there is a narrative history of the Hester family, beginning with their departure from Amsterdam in 1771, and arrival in Philadelphia, where they became indentured servants to pay their passage. Children with their dates of birth are recorded.

## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged chronologically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

### Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation from Fern Hestor on 1920/06/28.

### Accruals

No further additions are expected.

### Processing Information

Collection processing completed 2015/05/28 by Nikki Stoddard Schofield. EAD finding aid completed 2015/05/28 by Nikki Stoddard Schofield. EAD finding aid revised 2015/07/01 by Brittany Kropf.

## Controlled Access Headings

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### Family Name(s)

- Hester family

### Geographic Name(s)

- Charlestown (Ind.)

### Subject(s)

- Autobiography
- Clark County (Ind.)
- Correspondence
- Delaware Indians
- Family history
- Frontier and pioneer life--Indiana
- Indiana--History--Indians, 1816-1899
- Indians of North America--Treaties
- Methodist ministers--Biography
- Methodist preaching
- Pigeon Roost Massacre, 1812
- Pioneers--Indiana--Correspondence
- Potawatomi Indians
- Race prejudice
- Shawnee Indians
- Transcription